

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2004
6 to 9 p.m.**

College Hill Library, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Room L-268, Westminster

Victor Holm, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Downey, Anne Fenerty, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Bill McNeill, Sean Rea, Andrew Ross, / Rich Schassburger (DOE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS).

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Fabian, Mike Maus, Conrad Stoldt / Mark Aguilar (EPA)

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Alan Trenary (Westminster), Rob Henneke (EPA), Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill), Norma Castaneda (DOE), Phil Tomlinson (Thornton), LeRoy Moore (Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center), Vanessa Safonovs (Fort Collins), Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comment: LeRoy Moore: Dr. Moore reported that he has been contacted anonymously by a Rocky Flats site worker expressing concerns about worker and public safety in Building 776. The worker prefers to remain anonymous due to concerns over retaliation should he/she speak out. The worker's main concern is over how the building is going to be demolished and the possibility that plutonium-laden dust will be picked up and dispersed. The worker believes this building should be demolished under a tent or other cover. This building was the site of the 1969 fire and is heavily contaminated. Dr. Moore asked that DOE provide him and the Board a response in writing to the worker's concerns. Rich Schassburger with DOE agreed to provide such response. Victor Holm mentioned that the Board would like to see the demolition plan for the building when it is finished. Anne Fenerty stated she finds it a problem when DOE says it is protecting workers but that it has no criteria to demonstrate how it is also protecting the public.

New Business: Victor Holm: Mr. Holm announced at the end of the meeting he would be soliciting members to form a committee to finalize the Board's budget for 2004. He also announced the Board will fill the two Board officer vacancies, for the positions of Vice-Chair and Treasurer, at the February meeting. Members were encouraged to submit their nominations by contacting the Board office.

New Business: Bill McNeill: Mr. McNeill asked a clarifying question on the minutes for the Board's December meeting. In a section of the minutes was a notation that the Boulder County commissioners support Option C for the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, as it would limit human contact at the refuge. Mr. McNeill asked Steve Gunderson with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment whether the four options proposed for the refuge would all meet health and safety criteria. Mr. Gunderson responded that all four indeed would meet standards given that the cleanup criteria as expressed in the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement are met and are demonstrated by the final Comprehensive Risk Assessment. Mr. McNeill asked that a notation be added to the December minutes expressing Mr. Gunderson's response.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE 903 PAD LIP AREA INTERIM MEASURE / INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION (IM/IRA):

Lane Butler of Kaiser-Hill gave a presentation on the status of the 903 Pad and Lip Area project and on the proposed Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) for the Lip Area and Americium Zone.

ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-005395

The IM/IRA will evaluate alternatives for cleanup of the 903 Pad Inner Lip Area, the Americium Zone, and surface soil at the 881 Hillside Area, known as Operable Unit 1 (OU-1). The IM/IRA will cover several other nearby areas, as well.

From 1958 to 1967, the 3½-acre 903 Pad was used to store roughly 5,000 drums, which leaked hydraulic fluids and lathe coolant contaminated with plutonium, uranium and solvents. During early remediation efforts, high winds spread plutonium-contaminated soils to the east of the 903 Pad. This is the area known as the Lip Area and Americium Zone.

Lane said 903 Pad remediation is complete. Remediation involved excavating about 32,000 tons of asphalt and plutonium-contaminated soils. The waste filled 1,900 intermodal container units, most of which have been shipped offsite. Average excavation depth at the Pad was 3.1 feet.

Lane presented sampling data for surface and subsurface soils, surface water, and air in the Lip Area. For surface soil, there were a number of areas that exceeded the "Wildlife Refuge Worker Action Level." This action level refers to the excess lifetime cancer risk that residual contamination poses to a wildlife refuge worker. The risk, according to the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, must be less than 1 in 100,000. The surface soil action level corresponding to that risk is 50 picocuries per gram (50 pCi/g) of soil. Also for surface soil, there were some exceedances of ecological program remediation goals for inorganic chemicals, which will be addressed by the Comprehensive Risk Assessment.

Subsurface soil sampling showed only one location failed the soil risk screen for plutonium and americium.

For surface water, plutonium contamination of Woman Creek to the south of the Pad and Hillside areas can be caused when plutonium, sorbed by soil particles, erodes off the hillside when it rains. Surface water is sampled to look for exceedances of the 0.15 picocurie per liter (pCi/l) standard for surface water. The surface water monitoring station nearest the 903 Pad has been in excess of the 0.15 pCi/L limit twice in the last seven years. Other surface water monitoring wells in this area have not exceeded the limit.

Air monitoring results are below action levels, Lane said.

Groundwater actions will be evaluated in the site-wide Groundwater Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA).

Lane said remedial alternatives being considered for the Lip Area include: no action; soil removal to below 50 pCi/g; soil removal to below 50 pCi/g with extension of the existing South Interceptor Ditch; soil removal to below 50 pCi/g with covering of some areas of the Americium Zone; soil removal to below 50 pCi/g with additional surface soil removal in some areas.

Lane said ongoing activity in the Inner Lip Area (that area closest to the former pad) includes removal of surface soil above 50 pCi/g under the Environmental Restoration Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement Standard Operating Procedure (ERRSOP). Protection of air and surface water is being accomplished by watering for dust control, placement of degradable erosion mats and hay bales, and seeding with native seed.

In the near-term, the Site will continue with surface soil removal in the Inner Lip Area; select an alternative for the IM/IRA; complete a draft IM/IRA in February and distribute it to the public for a 45-day public comment period.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BUILDING 371/374 CLOSURE PROJECT DECOMMISSIONING OPERATIONS PLAN, MODIFICATION 4:

The Site has issued modifications to its original proposal for demolition of Building 371. The Board reviewed the document outlining these modifications and approved a set of recommendations. A summary of the recommendations is as follows:

- The Board expressed concern that the site proposes to use volumetric measurements to determine the levels of contamination that will be left in the building rather than surficial or areal measurements. The Board recommends that the proper unit of measurement should be

disintegrations per minute per 100 square centimeters rather than 50 picocuries per gram, which is used for soil.

- Because of concerns that the site plans to use explosives to level the building, the Board recommends the following be done before demolition takes place: that the site have a dust suppression plan; that residents within a five mile radius of the site be given notice that explosives will be used and that they be provided an opportunity to have the plan explained to them; that the explosives contractor provide evidence of previous work done on a contaminated facility; that the Site publish its contingency plan in case there is a detonation failure; and that the Site have a corrective action plan in place to control runoff and mud that might be created when water is used to suppress dust during the demolition.
- During demolition the Board recommends that the Site strive to protect both the workers and the public by using explosives only on days when winds do not exceed 10 miles per hour; that the site verify that explosive charges have only been placed on surfaces that meet free-release criteria; and that the site use dedicated temporary, near-real time monitors during demolition with onsite laboratory support to monitor airborne silica, dust and airborne radioactivity.
- With respect to long-term stewardship considerations, the Board recommends that the Site define the information and data from the decommissioning and demolition of the building that will be collected and preserved and how it will be made available to the public.
- Finally, the Board recommends that the document be modified to include a groundwater model that includes projections of groundwater flow and a projected flow of any contaminant plumes in the area after demolition; a demolition plan that includes radiation monitoring; a plan to control airborne contamination; and descriptions of the final land configuration of the area in which the building now sits. The above additions to the document should be made available for public comment before demolition occurs.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ROCKY FLATS LONG TERM STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY DOCUMENT:

The Board discussed and approved a recommendation on the Rocky Flats Long-Term Stewardship Strategy. This document focuses on several aspects of the long-term stewardship strategy for Rocky Flats. In the recommendation, the Board requests:

- that DOE adopt as policy the use of layered controls at the site;
- that the Site analyze life-cycle costs of stewardship in its proposed remedial actions;
- that DOE explore establishing a trust fund for long-term stewardship activities;
- that excavation on the site and the use of groundwater be restricted;
- that the site perform annual instead of five-year reviews under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, at least for the first five years after closure;
- that the Site establish a contingency plan and emergency response plan;
- and that the Site establish a public involvement process.

The Board members had differing opinions on one point in the recommendation which called for restrictions on excavation anywhere at the site and a prohibition on the use of groundwater on land under DOE's jurisdiction. The members agreed to drop this part of the recommendation for now

and will revisit the issue at a later time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Victor Holm stated that the Board needs to finalize its 2004 budget by the end of January, so that it can be approved by the Board at the February meeting. He noted that much of the budget is set, but that decisions need to be made concerning independent peer review and public outreach. He asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee. Members volunteering included Victor Holm, Andrew Ross, Joe Downey and Bill Kossack. The group will meet after Victor returns from a trip on January 20.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

With time short at the end of the meeting, Ken Korkia reviewed what would be coming up for the Board in the near term. In February, the Board will co-host the annual "State of the Flats" presentation with DOE. Other items to be presented will include the Original Landfill Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action and the Groundwater Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action. The Board also will hold elections for the vacant positions of Vice-Chair and Treasurer, and will approve its final budget for 2004. The Board's February meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Broomfield Senior Center in the Lakeshore room.

Since the 903 Pad Lip Area Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action document will not be available in time for the Board's January Committee Night, the Board will schedule a discussion on long-term stewardship, with the goal of outlining a path forward for the Board's consideration of long-term stewardship issues in the coming months.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: February 6, 6 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Broomfield Senior Center, Lakeshore Room, 280 Lamar Street, Broomfield

Agenda:

- *State of the Flats Presentation*

- *Presentation and Discussion on the Original Landfill Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action*

- *Presentation and Discussion on the Industrial Area Groundwater Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Anne Fenerty, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

[Home](#) | [About RFCAB](#) | [Board Members](#) | [About Rocky Flats](#) | [RFCAB Documents](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Public Involvement](#) | [Board Vacancies](#) | [Special Projects](#) | [Contact](#)